

March 29, 1973

SPEAKER: LB 207 Clerk will read.

CLERK: Title Read LB 207. The bill was indefinitely postponed by committee, it was raised on the floor, there are now amendments by Senator Barnett, add a new section 1, as a new paragraph sub-4, (read - see page 1027 journal). This amendment is submitted because of the broad language used in Section 1(3), page 2 of this bill, J. Arthur Danielson.

SPEAKER: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President and members of the legislature. I move for the adoption of this amendment. The purpose of the amendment, if you are familiar with the Christain Science religion, and we have this statute and this amendment on several bills, in the legislature and in the state of Nebraska, and I've been asked to put this on, I tried it in committee and there was some opposition and I'm sure there will be some today, but I did want to bring it out and try it before the whole body, because I believe if a person wants to study their religion, religiously

(End of Belt #15)

(Start Belt #16)

that we should respect that in this legislature and therefore, this is the reason that I offer this amendment. The amendment actually is that, I'm sure if you are familiar with the Christain Science religion they have a different way of attending to their people when they are sick or when they are ill. It does not meet with the type of hospitalization unless it is severely dictated to by people in that religion later on. They do what they call, they have people that pray for these people and under these conditions, they are, have cases where they have recovered and this is the belief of their religion. I'm sure you are all familiar with the Christain Science religion.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the legislature, I'm a member of the committee who opposed this amendment, in committee, and I oppose it now. First of all I don't think any law ought to be passed recognizing religion, either in a positive or negative sense. Senator Barnett and those who are interested in this amendment are concerned about the Christain Science religion, but when you use the term recognized religion, the question and the issue would be, who recognized the religion? Any religion is recognized by the people who adhere to it, so if there is another religion which believes that their children and no other member of their religion should receive a blood transfusion, this amendment would have to apply to them also. You cannot pass special legislation, that's why the Christain Science faith could not be mentioned by name. I don't think the bill, this amendment ought to be attached to the bill. It's alright for an adult who has a religious belief to practice his faith on himself or herself, but to make the child a guinea pig, and that's what I call it, is not fair, and what Senator Barnett and the other people want this amendment ought to realize, they can practice their religion, Senator Barnett, they can practice their religion all they choose, the only time, he doesn't know who we are talking about now, the Christain Science can practice their religion however, and whenever they choose, and the only time it would become an issue is if the child's health deteriorated to such a point that it was notice by other people, and at that point somebody might file a complaint, and at that point, I think Senator Barnett and others have indicated, that a Christain Science might seek medical attention for the child anyway, so I think there is no need for this amendment.